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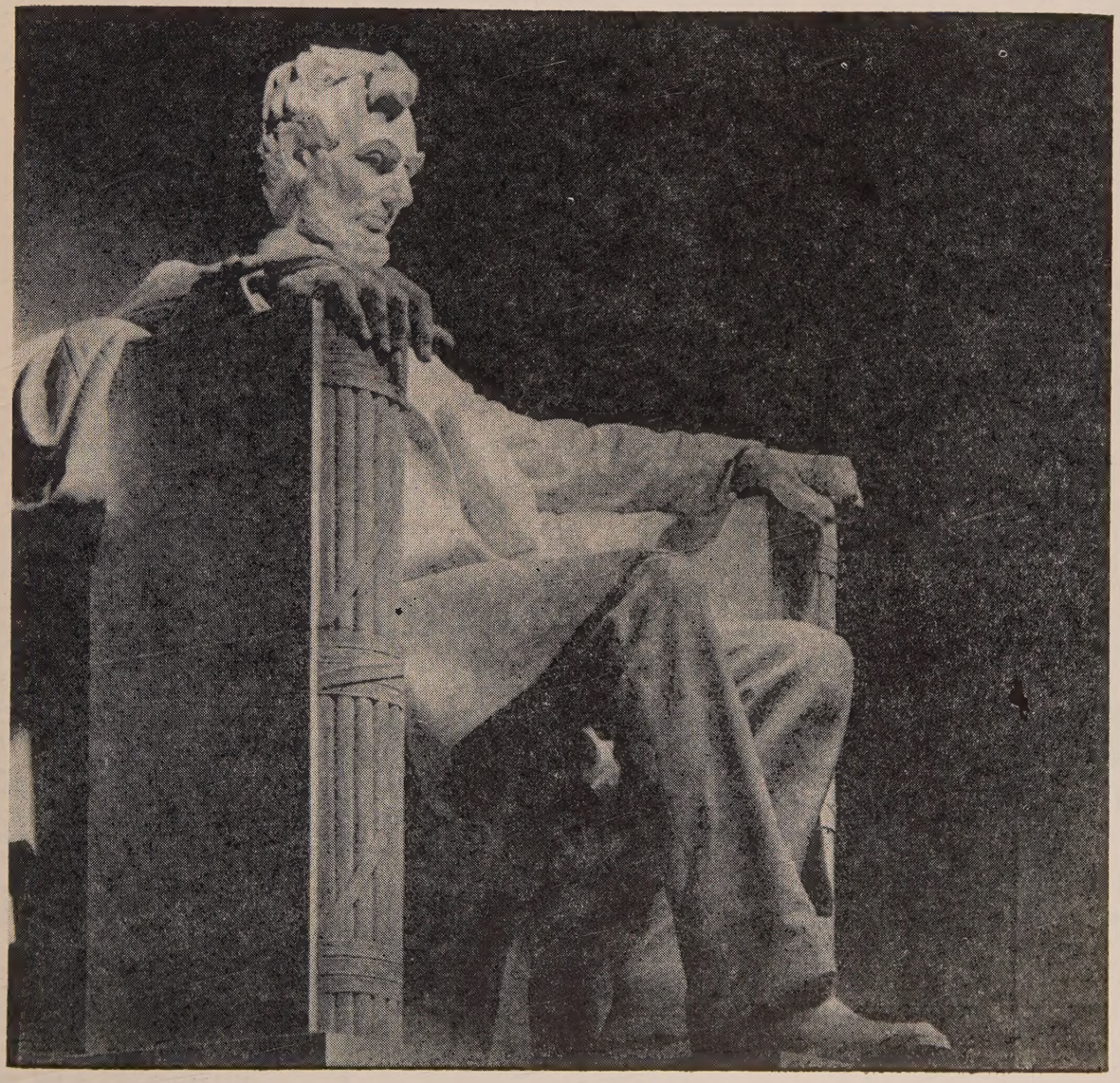
VOICE OF EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANITY IN AMERICA

FEBRUARY 15, 1956



"... As God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in ..."

OFFICIAL NAE ORGAN

Readers Say—

Pray for Hongkong

To the Editor:

We in Hongkong would appreciate it if a February issue of *Action* magazine could include the announcement of the special evangelistic meetings that are planned for this British Colony. We are looking forward to Dr. Billy Graham's one day visit on the 15th of February with a morning meeting for all Christian workers and a large rally at the South China Football Stadium in the evening. Also, on the 12th of February Dr. David E. Morken begins a two week series of meetings under the auspices of the same united committee that is making arrangements for the Billy Graham meetings. A tabernacle seating 5,000 is to be constructed; already the Navigators are working with over one thousand Chinese Christians, training them to serve as personal workers.

We are very conscious of the great spiritual need of about two and one-half million people who are crowded into the 391 square miles of this Colony. Many of them have come seeking refuge, but as Dave Morken says, he believes that God in His mercy has led them here that they might hear the Gospel message and learn to know the Saviour. We are looking to our faithful Christian friends in America, in fact around the world, to join us in prayer that God's power will be made manifest in this strategic city. We are amazed that *Time* magazine should have featured Hongkong in its January 16 issue, and believe that God will use this information to stir Christians to pray wth us.

We appreciate *Action* very much out here. It keeps us informed of activities and trends in conservative circles of the homeland and also provides much other information and inspiration which helps us in our work out here.

DONALD C. CARLSON

Kowloon, Hongkong.

Methodists and Second Coming

To the Editor:

The title of the news article, "Methodists Do Not Believe in the Second Coming" (*Action*, January 15), is grossly misleading. This statement again appears in the following sentence: "Instead of believing in the return of Christ in the way Christ and the early Christian Church taught it, Methodists regard 'the second coming of Jesus' as meaning 'that Christ is lord of all, that divine love will win out and that victory over evil will be complete.'" Yet the article itself starts out by saying that Dr. Walter G. Muelder makes it clear that *he* does not believe in the personal visible return of Jesus Christ to earth. This is very inconsistent. I asked a Methodist clergyman in our city about the truth or falsity of a statement to the effect that the Methodists did no believe in this vital Christian doctrine, and he said that "the biggest majority of Methodist people hold that belief to be very precious. By 'biggest majority' I mean at least 75 per cent." He further stated that at least 50 per cent of Methodist clergymen firmly believed in the second coming of Christ. He further stated that it is true that Dr. Muelder did *not* believe in the second coming.

I think that, in view of the inconsistencies that are so apparent in your article, some retraction should be made.

I have only recently joined the ranks of the National Association of Evangelicals, but I am very happy that I have done so, because the Association speaks my dearest convictions. I especially appreciate the fine magazine which you edit, because it is very informative and stimulating.

RICHARD L. HEIM

San Jose, Calif.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: The news item under question was badly phrased. It should have read *many Methodists* do not believe in the evangelical doctrine of the Second Coming of Christ. Dr. Muelder represents this group which has a very strong influence in the denomination's official circles. The fact that the *Christian Advocate* chose Dr. Muelder to present his liberal views in its columns without editorial question, indicates this to be true. We rejoice in the fact that many Methodists do believe in the Bible doctrine. May their tribe increase!]

Brickbats and Bouquets

To the Editor:

I have just perused a part of Carl F. H. Henry's conglomeration of abstractions regarding Christian unity (*Action*, January 1). It would take a million years for such light to reach one lost soul. An octet of Philadelphia barristers could not make head nor tail of it. The average human being will wonder just why the editor of *Action* magazine published such an article. Put the hay down where we can get it!

F. COTTINGHAM

Charleston, Ill.

To the Editor:

I must express my deep satisfaction for your good magazine, both in editorials and contributed articles. The recent article by Dr. Carl F. H. Henry (*Action*, January 1) serves as a true guide for thinking evangelicals on biblical ecumenicity.

JOHN DUDECK

St. Croix Falls, Wisc.

To the Editor:

Thank God for *Action* magazine and its outstanding contribution to our holy Christian faith.

ROSCOE F. WILSON

South Bend, Ind.

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Action

United Evangelical Action

An Interdenominational Journal of News and Opinion with a Program for United Action

JAMES DE FOREST MURCH
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VERDA BLOOMHUFF
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Daniel Cheser French's statue of Abraham Lincoln in the famous Potomac Park Memorial in Washington, D. C.

United Evangelical Action is published twice a month at Newton, Kansas by the National Association of Evangelicals.

Advertising space rates on request.

Subscription price in U.S.A. and possessions, six months, $1.00; one year, $2.00, three years, $5.00. Foreign subscriptions, $2.00 per year in Canada and nations of the Pan-American Union; other countries, $3.00. No receipts mailed unless requested.

Entered as second-class matter at the post office at Newton, Kansas under the act of March 3, 1879.

All editorials, sermons and articles appearing in United Evangelical Action represent the personal views of the authors. They do not necessarily reflect the policies of the National Association of Evangelicals, of its constituent groups, or the convictions of their individual members.

Executive, Editorial and News offices, United Evangelical Action, 111 E. Fourth St., Cincinnati 2, Ohio. Telephone MAin 1-6939.

Circulation and Subscription offices, United Evangelical Action, 108 N. Main St., Wheaton, Ill. Telephone WHeaton 8-7110.

Advertising office, United Evangelical Action, 111 E. Fourth Street, Cincinnati 2, Ohio. Telephone MAin 1-6939.

Vol. XIV No. 24

Newton, Kansas February 15, 1956

Printed in the U.S.A.

The Christian Church In the World Today

OSWALD T. ALLIS

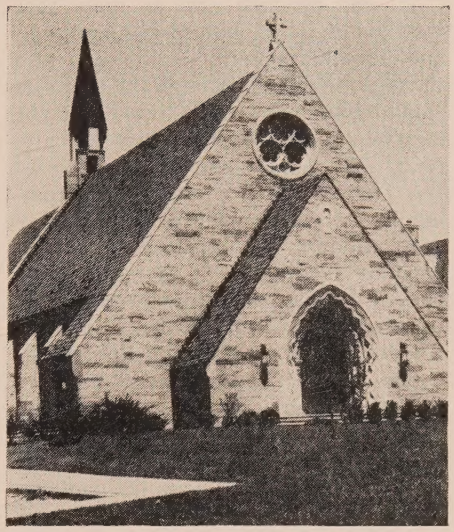
Look unto me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God and there is none else.—Isa. 45:22.

I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me.—John 14:6.

THESE two texts make it clear that the uniqueness and the all-embracing claims of the Christian Gospel are set forth both in the Old Testament and in the New. There is no subject which needs to be more clearly recognized or more carefully stressed today than this: the preeminent and exclusive claims of the Gospel of Christ.

We are living in a scientific age, a half century which makes its boast that it has penetrated more deeply into the secrets of the material universe than any or perhaps all the centuries of the past. Nuclear physics is now a word to conjure with; and we are tempted to say like Nebuchadnezzar, "Is not this the great and glorious atomic age which I have built," Yet our boasting is coupled with fear. For our robot has become a Frankenstein. We rejoice in and marvel at the wonderful achievements of modern medicine. Lung surgery, heart surgery, brain surgery, sulpha drugs and Salk serum. The modern surgeon treats the human body almost as a watchmaker treats a watch, taking it apart, cleaning, repairing, and putting it together again. But we are forcibly reminded that while the surgeon in the operating room, with all the resources of medical science at his disposal, is using them to save a life, a jet plane flying faster than the speed of sound and so high in the heavens as to be invisible to the naked eye can drop a bomb, which will destroy doctor and patient, operating room and hospital, and reduce to ashes the great city in which it is located.

We hear and read much today about social security and vast efforts are being made to provide our citizens with security from the cradle to the grave. Yet there never was a time when in civilized lands human life was as insecure as it is now. For we are living in the atomic age. And over all of us



there hangs the threat of a third world war with the use of weapons which could, we are told, wipe mankind from off the face of the earth.

This is the death's head at the feast of our men of science today. How are they to save man from the misuse of his own inventions? Some of us can well remember being told that the First World War was a war to end wars and to make the world safe for democracy. It failed to do this. And after World War Two the United Nations was organized; and its great aim is to prevent a Third World War which might end all wars by destroying both the victor and the vanquished.

Recently there was celebrated in San Francisco the Tenth Anniversary of the United Nations. Many have become increasingly skeptical of its effectiveness. But its advocates acclaim its achievements and ask its critics what substitute they have to offer. For us, as Christian people, the most significant thing about this Anniversary was the so-called "Festival of Faith" which was held in connection with it. The United Nations has been criticized as godless. It has been claimed that its sessions should be opened with prayer. So arrangements were made for "A service of prayer for peace and divine guidance to the United Nations." In the "Invitation to Worship" sentences were read from the Old Testament Psalms, from the Bhagavad Gita, one of the sacred books of the Hindus, and from St. Augustine; all three were recited by a Jewish Rabbi. There was a hymn, "God of Our Fathers." There was a "Responsive Reading" consisting of sentences from Confucian, Hindu, Buddhist, Christian, Moslem, and Jewish (i.e. Old Testament) sources. There was an anthem, "The Heavens Are Telling" with music by Haydn. There were "Calls to Prayer"; and prayers were printed on the program which were to be offered by the members of the different faiths: Bahai, Buddhist, Christian (Eastern Orthodox and Protestant), Hindu, Jewish, Moslem. After the prayers there was a "Choral Response," called *Ram Dhun,* written by Ghandi. Then an address was delivered by Secretary of State John Foster Dulles on the subject, "The Moral Foundations of the United Nations." We are told that 15,000 persons were present at this ceremony.

In the light of this remarkable event, remarkable from a political viewpoint, but even more remarkable from the religious and Christian, you will, I think, have no difficulty in appreciating the timeliness of this discussion. There are *two* teachings which are especially characteristic of the Bible, of both the Old Testament and the New. The one is its claim to be a *supernatural* revelation. From beginning to end the Bible tells us about God, His words and His works, creation, providence, and most of all, redemption. Christianity is pervasively a *supernatural* religion, and the supernaturalism of the New Testament is but the fulfilment and fruition of the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament. For centuries this pervasive supernaturalism of the Bible was accepted as the evidence and proof of its divine origin. When Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to a trial of strength at Carmel and laid down the rule for the contest, saying, "The God that answereth by fire, let him be God," there was no objection to the

test. Most of the peoples of the world have believed in some kind of a supernatural being or beings, who could influence their earthly life and control their future destiny for weal or woe. It has only been within comparatively recent times that the supernaturalism of the Bible has given offense to intelligent men and women in what we have been wont to call Christendom. It has been the tragic and terrible result of the rationalistic trend which we know as Modernism, Liberalism, Higher Criticism, that many men have come to regard the supernatural as superstition and to hold that if Christianity is to retain its hold on the minds of thinking men, it must be desupernaturalized.

Recent events, we may be thankful to feel, have done much to discredit this self-sufficient and aggressive Humanism. Prominent scientists are realizing and confessing publicly that man needs a power other than himself working for righteousness, that a godless world is a hopeless world. And this "Festival of Faith" of the United Nations is a powerful witness to this act. "O God, thou hast made us for thyself," said Augustine, "and our hearts are restless, until they find their rest in thee." In this Festival we have an evidence of that restlessness.

But there is another teaching of the Bible which is quite as prominent and important. It is this, the *uniqueness* and the *exclusiveness* of its claims. It is this truth that is taught so definitely and emphatically in our texts and in very many others which might be cited. We turn to the first verse of the Bible and there we read that the God who is named so constantly in the Bible is He who "in the beginning created the heaven and earth." This is the God who promised Abraham that in his "seed all the nations of the earth" should be blessed. In Egypt the God of Abraham showed his sovereign power on what we may call an international scale. Egypt was one of the greatest nations of antiquity. We stand in awe today before the Pyramids of her Pharaohs, and the temples of her gods. Yet these gods were not able to save their people from the plagues which were visited upon them by the God of Israel and we read regarding the last of them: "For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and I will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord."

Centuries later, Sennacherib, king of Assyria, came up against Jerusalem and challenged Hezekiah with the words, "Who are they among all the gods of the countries that have delivered their country out of my hand, that the Lord should deliver Jerusalem out of mine hand?" And what was the answer? "Because they rage against me and thy tumult is come up into mine ears, therefore I will put my hook in thy nose, and my bridle in thy lips, and I will turn thee back by the way which thou camest." And Sennacherib's army was smitten by the angel of the Lord; and he departed, never to return.

It was by such acts as these that the God of Israel showed His sovereign and almighty power. And it was also through them and through the promises and prophecies that He uttered by the mouths of His prophets that He prepared His people for the Coming of the Messiah. And it was in *His* coming that the universalism of the covenant promise to Abraham found its glorious fulfilment. It is stated most beautifully in those words which are so familiar and so precious to every Christian: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life." This is the testimony of the Son regarding Himself: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the father but by me." And *this* was His commission to His disciples before He ascended up where He was before; "All power is given unto me in heaven and on earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations, and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." And *this* is the way in which His disciples interpreted their commission. When questioned with regard to the healing of the lame man, they said: "This is the stone which was set at naught of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

These words were uttered probably soon after the Ascension, and nowhere do we have a clearer or stronger affirmation of that claim which is of the very essence of Christianity, that there is only *one* gospel, because there is only *one* Christ who is the *one* and *only* mediator between God and man, the *only* Saviour. And it is this claim to *uniqueness* which, in the measure that she has been faithful to it, has marked the history of the Church in two ways, from Pentecost unto this very day. *Persecution* and *victory!* It was because the Christians would not recognize the many religions of that old pagan Graeco-Roman world, with its gods many and lords many; it was because they refused to allow the Lord Jesus Christ to be treated as just another god, like Jupiter or Apollo or Horus or like the deified emperors, Augustus and Caligula, but demanded for Him a unique and preeminent place as the One who is over all, God blessed forever—it was because of this that the fires of persecution were kindled against them, and the Early Church became a martyr church. But it was also to this that the Christian Church owed its triumphal progress, a triumph so amazing that three centuries after the giving of the Great Commission, the great persecuting Roman Empire became at least nominally Christian, and the gods and goddesses were cast to the moles and bats. And *so* it has been since that time and *so* it is today. The times when the Church has recognized most clearly her unique commission and adhered most strictly to it have been times of trial and of triumph. For Christianity is by virtue of its character and commission a missionary religion. Half a century ago, the Student Volunteer Movement was active and aggressive. Its slogan was "the evangelization of the world in this generation." And John R. Mott whose death was recently reported, wrote a little book to prove that the aim of the Volunteers was not chimerical and visionary, but both possible and practical, if only the Church of Christ would take the great commission seriously.

What is the situation today? According to the *World Almanac* the total population of the earth is now about 2,400 millions. Of the non-Christian religions which were represented at the Festival of Faith, the Mohammedans, Confucianists, and Hindus number about 300 million each, and the Buddhists about 150 millions, a total of more than 1,000 million. The Jews number only about 11½ millions, but half of them are in this country and half of that half live in Greater New York. So at the Festival, as in the affairs of the world in general, they exerted an influence out of all proportion to their numbers. According to the *Almanac* the total Christian population, including Protestant, Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox (Greek) which includes Russia, is about 800 million. More than half of this total, about 450 million, being Roman Catholic. The Roman Catholics refused to take part in this Festival, which was promoted by the World Council of Churches. The figure for the Eastern Orthodox Church, 130 million, apparently assumes that the Russian Church is

(Continued on page 6)

Missionary Epic in the Jungles of Ecuador

DONALD H. GILL

Evangelical schools and colleges report some 500 new volunteers for the mission field in the wake of this tragic news from Ecuador.

ON January 10, the USA State Department asked the Washington office of the National Association of Evangelicals to notify the headquarters of three mission boards that five missionaries were lost and perhaps wounded or dead in the jungles of Ecuador.

Thus came the news that startled the nation and wrote a modern epic of evangelical missionary endeavor. The State Department had received the news by cable from the USA ambasador in Quito just a few hours before it became headlines across the nation.

The five missionaries had flown to a site on the Curaray River, an upper tributary of the Amazon, and were engaged in an attempt to make friendly contacts with the unevangelized Auca Indians. The missionary heroes were: Nat Saint of Missionary Aviation Fellowship; James Elliot, Edward McCully and Peter Fleming of Christian Missions in Many Lands; and Roger Youderian of the Gospel Missionary Union.

Nat Saint, a member of the Missionary Aviation Fellowship of Fullerton, Calif., had for a number of years operated a flying service in northeastern Ecuador and adjacent parts of Colombia for missionary groups working the Amazon headwaters area across the Andes from Quito.

Roger Youderian was a representative of the Gospel Missionary Union, which has headquarters at Kansas City, Mo., and the others were affiliated with the Wycliffe Translators of Glendale, Calif., and Christian Missions in Many Lands.

Encouraged by success with Indian tribes north and east of their base at Shell Mera, the group had established friendly contact with an Auca tribe deeper in the jungle and determined upon the trip to the Curaray River.

Two flights, a week apart, were made. On the first Mr. Saint piloted McCully and Youderian to the river bank where a base was set up. Four days later—a Thursday—Saint returned to Shell Mera.

On Saturday, McCully and Youderian reported by radio they had made friendly contact with Aucas of the area, and the following morning Saint set out again in the Piper Cub plane this time with Fleming and Elliot.

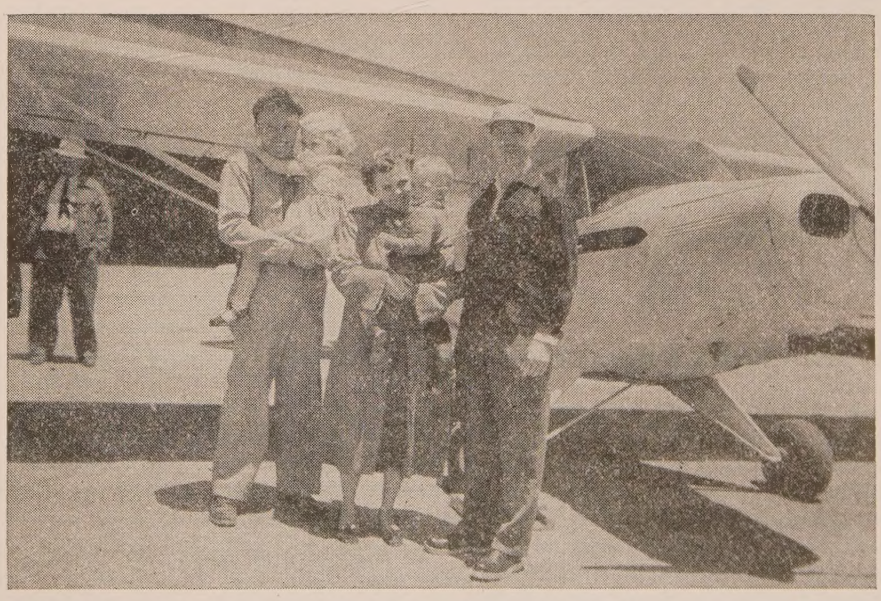
At 12:15 that afternoon they reported back to Mrs. Saint in Shell Mera they had landed safely and would communicate again at 4 p.m. Exactly at that hour, Saint established radio contact but had spoken only a few words when he interrupted himself to say excitedly, "here come a group of Aucas we've not known before." Then communications were broken off.

John Keenan, another Missionary Aviation Fellowship pilot, took off from Shell Mera shortly afterward for the scene. All he could see from the air was Saint's plane on the river bank with no signs of life around it. US Air Force planes and a helicopter from the Canal Zone joined in the reconnaissance operations. After five days, all the bodies were located and identified.

The wives of the five men accepted the news of their widowhood with "a deep calm." Other missionaries associated with the effort to evangelize the Aucas are said to be undismayed by the tragedy and to have a "burning desire" to continue efforts to bring the Indians to salvation.

Actually, the Auca mission has been in preparation for about a year. Initial contact was made with four Indian women from whom some of the Auca language was learned.

Since October, the missionaries had made twelve air trips to the Auca territory dropping gifts in an effort to win the friendship of the Indians. The gifts, delivered in buckets lowered



Nat and Marjorie Saint with Kathy and Steve, standing in front of the aircraft that was used on the expedition to reach the Aucas.

from the Piper Cub by rope, included metal kettles, brightly colored ribbons and clothing.

The Indians responded by returning gifts of a feather crown, a parrot, and various native foods. They cleared brush and trees to facilitate the air drop of gifts, built a crude model of the plane which they placed atop one of their huts and even erected a 20-ft platform to receive the bucket-delivered goods.

Later, after the missionaries had established a 200-yard clearing on the river bank, a group of three nearly naked Aucas came to their camp "completely unafraid and unembarrassed." In the group was a man of about twenty and two women, one about eighteen, the other thirty. The man was taken for a ride in the missionaries' plane after he expressed deep interest in it.

The latter incident occurred during the four days Saint spent at the camp with McCully and Youderian. What happened on the final trip and how the relationship shifted from one of apparent friendliness to hostility and death remains a deep mystery.

The wives of the missionaries requested that the bodies be buried in the land they died to save. Thus remain, on a bank of the Curaray deep in the Ecuadorian jungles, five graves, which have become an everlasting memorial to the fact that these missionaries, like those of the First Century, were "men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

[Dr. Clarence W. Jones, president of World Radio Missionary Fellowship, informs us that by public request a trust fund has been set up for the widows and children of the five missionaries. Dr. V. Raymond Edman, president of Wheaton College, has consented to act as chairman of the board of trustees of the fund. Also chosen as trustees were General William K. Harrison, Jr. and Dr. Clyde W. Taylor, executive secretary of the Evangelical Foreign Missions Association. The trust fund will have headquarters in Washington, D.C. and may be addressed as follows: "Five Missionary Martyrs Trust Fund," Box 285, Washington, D. C.]

* * * *

The Christian Church

(Continued from page 4)

nearly as strong now under Communist regime as it was under the Czars. This would seem to be a decidedly questionable assumption. But even if we allow them their 130 million, they and the Protestants who number only 200 million would be outnumbered more than three to one by the Mohammedans, Confucianists, Buddhists, Hindus and Jews who took a more or less active part in the Festival. And if we disregard the Eastern Orthodox Church, which is much closer to the Roman Catholic Church than it is to us, the Protestant Church was outnumbered more than five to one in the Festival. And when we observe that only about three-fifths of the population of the world were represented there, we are confronted with the tragic and humiliating fact that Evangelical Protestant Christians constitute less than ten per cent of the population of the world.

Think of it! It is nearly 2,000 years since the Great Commission was given to the early disciples by their risen and victorious Lord; and yet today evangelical Christians represent less than ten per cent of the population of the world.

In connection with this fact we must consider another and a very important one. Most of the great religions which I have mentioned are or have been *missionary* religions. Confucius and Buddha were born 500 or more years before our era; and the followers of each outnumber Protestant Christians some three to two today. Mohammed was born more than 500 years *after* the birth of Christ. But within a century of his death, Islam had swept eastward to the Indus, westward to Gibraltar, over into Spain, across the Pyrenees and was finally halted by Charles Martel in the famous battle of Tours in 732, just a century after the death of Mohammed. The invasion of Europe from the East began in the 14th century. In 1453 Constantinople fell into the hands of the Ottoman Turks who had been converted to Islam. In 1529 Soliman the Magnificent besieged Vienna. And in the days of the Protestant Reformation, one of the prayers which were frequently offered by Luther and the Christians of Europe, was that they might be delivered from the terrible Turk. It was not until the Balkan Wars of 1912-13 that the Turks were all but driven out of Europe.

What is the creed of the Mohammedans? It is very brief and also very definite. It is this, "There is no God but Allah, and Mohammed is the Prophet of Allah." This is the basic doctrine to which all the faithful subscribe. So we observe that the first paragraph of one of the two Moslem prayers which were offered at the Festival reads as follows:

In the Name of Allah, the Gracious the Merciful.

O Allah! I believe in that which has been revealed to Mohammed and which was revealed to Thy Chosen Apostles whose names are inscribed in the records of many nations and many tongues. They all witness to the One Truth: of Thy Unity, might, grace, and love.

Note the words: "They all witness to the One Truth; of Thy *Unity*, might, grace, and love." What does that mean? It means the denial of the Christian doctrine of the Trinity. And why is it placed in this prayer? It is placed there to make it clear that Islam rejects today, as it has always rejected, the Deity of Christ and His Saviourhood. The Crescent has been for thirteen centuries one of the greatest enemies of the Cross; and that enmity is shown in this prayer that was offered at the Festival of Faith.

I might go on and speak of the other religions whose representatives had a part in this Festival. But this one example may suffice. For it brings home to us in very vivid fashion the situation with which the Christian Church is confronted in the world of today. To many Christians, even since the rise of the modern missionary movement a century and a half ago, the heathen nations have been rather remote; and it has been hard to interest them in Foreign Missions. But today when the United Nations has its headquarters in New York, the religious issue becomes a very urgent one.

There is yet another fact which tends to make the matter even more urgent. What was the great issue at the United Nations celebration? What is it that makes so many people feel that, however little this organization has accomplished, and however serious its defects, it must be supported at all costs? The reason is *Communism*, the Red Peril as represented by Red Russia and Red China. Communism which had been more or less an underground movement since Marx and Engels issued their Manifesto in 1847, has in less than half a century become the master, the tyrant of Russia and China; and it is striving vigorously, ceaselessly, and by every means, for the mastery of the world. Its aim is world Communism. And its creed has been summed up in the words, "No master below and no master above." It is both godless and anti-God. And the advances which it has made serve to remind us of the amazing sweep of Mohammedanism, of which I have spoken. In fact we might call Communism the seventh of the great religions. For it is being propagated with a zeal, an enthusiasm, a spirit of self-sacrifice, which has its parallel only in the great religions of the past and of the present.

(Continued on page 8)

Action

EDITORIAL

JAMES DeFOREST MURCH, Editor

Editorial Offices: United Evangelical Action, 111 East Fourth Street, Cincinnati 2, Ohio, U.S.A.

THE GOSPEL ABOVE ALL GOSPELS

This is a day of many gospels. The sincere seeker after truth is beset by many kinds of preachers, each claiming to have the only panacea for humanity's ills.

There is the gospel of *atheism,* which declares that there is no God. Atheists claim that they are opposed to all religion, but the fact of the matter is they have made a religion of their unbelief. The atheistic gospel has fallen upon hard times. With humanity facing virtual extinction in a possible atomic war men are forced to choose God or suicide. Atheism is not a gospel which can stand the stresses and crises of life.

Then there is the gospel of *humanism.* It is well stated in William Henley's poem, "Invictus." It holds that man is self-sufficient to meet every issue of life. It sets up the human mind as supreme and bows down to it in self-worship. Its converts go through life having their own way about everything, riding ruthlessly over every obstacle to their wilfulness and as the poet proudly puts it, meeting the crises of life with a head which is "bloody but unbowed." This gospel has many forms, not the least of which are the materialism and secularism of our day. None of these views of life satisfies the soul.

The gospel of *liberalism* offers the God and Christ of the "inner consciousness." It is expressed in terms of exceptional spiritual insight, philosophical speculation, scientific discovery, or other forms of religious rationalism. It knows little or nothing of faith in the supernatural, full surrender to Christ and the authority of the inspired Scriptures. Liberalism fails to meet man's need in times of crisis when only a supernatural power from outside and above this world can save.

There is only one gospel which meets every need of the human heart and that is THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST. But sad to relate, the world is filled with strange versions of that Gospel. Preachers in the name of Christ are calling "Lo, here!" and "Lo, there," until the average man is utterly confused about which to accept. Looking at it in one way, the presence in the world of so many imitations of the true Gospel is the sincerest form of flattery. We do not imitate that which is valueless. We counterfeit money, diamonds, and quality merchandise of all kinds. The reason there are so many versions of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is that the true Gospel is the most valuable thing in the world.

But nevertheless, these counterfeits are confusing. The Apostle Paul, writing under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, says in Galatians 1:6f— "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ." What is this original, apostolic, primitive, divinely-revealed Gospel that Paul is talking about here? We are not left in the dark about it. It has been revealed to all men in the Holy Scriptures. No man who will take the trouble to study the New Testament will be in doubt about it.

This same Apostle Paul, writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, says in 1 Cor. 15:1f: "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preach unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he arose again the third day according to the scriptures." The gospel, the good news, is Jesus Himself—crucified, buried, and risen from the dead.

Who is this Jesus Christ that He should be such "good news" to men today? He is Jesus of Nazareth who, without money and arms, conquered more millions than Alexander, Caesar, Mohammed, and Napoleon. He is Jesus of Nazareth who shed more light on things human and divine than all the philosophers and scholars combined. He is Jesus of Nazareth who, without the eloquence of the schools, spoke words of life such as were never spoken before nor since, and produced effects which lie beyond the reach of orator or poet. He is Jesus of Nazareth who, without writing a single line, has set more pens in motion and furnished themes for more sermons, orations, discussions, works of art, learned volumes and sweet songs of praise than the whole army of great men of ancient and modern times. He is Jesus of Nazareth who, born in a manger and crucified as a malefactor, now controls the destinies of all men and rules a spiritual empire which embraces one-third of the inhabitants of the globe. And this is not all. He is Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God, who came down from heaven, took upon Himself the form of a man, was subject to all the temptations known to humanity yet without sin, and died on the cross for the redemption of sinful humanity.

Now let us examine Paul's statement in 1 Corinthians 15 a little further. He mentions specifically Christ's death and Christ's burial and resurrection. Indeed here is the heart of the whole matter—the clue to the validity of the one and only gospel that is the power of God unto salvation. Christ is the Son of God (not a mere man) and His death on the cross was the substitutionary vicarious atonement for the sin of the world. Since the day when the sin of our first parents cut mankind off from the saving power of God, God has required that man produce a perfect sacrifice for sin. Through the ages it was demonstrated that

(Continued on page 20)

The Christian Church

(Continued from page 6)

It is the common fear of Communism which holds the United Nations together, despite the fact that Communist Russia has tried to block every real gain for the free nations by the exercise of her power of veto. The Communists of course took no part in the Festival of Faith.

How are we to meet this issue? What is our duty as Christians in this world crisis? There are, I believe, *two* things which we need to bear in mind and act upon. The first is the fact that we are *Americans*. Our republic was founded by men who had suffered persecution for their faith in lands across the sea; and they believed in liberty of conscience. And the First Amendment to the Constitution reads as follows:

> Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

These words represent the considered judgment of the founding fathers and they are a precious heritage for us, which was won "by blood and sweat and tears." And we cannot study intelligently the course of events in our Country today without feeling that this precious article in what we call the "Bill of Rights" is jeopardized in many ways. Even the anti-bias movement of which we hear so much today may easily lead to dangerous restriction of that freedom of speech and action which we regard as inherent to our freedom.

But the second and far more important question is this, How are we as *Christians* to meet these aggressive anti-Christian missionary movements in the world today? Several different answers are being given. Some people, who profess to be Christians, tell us that we should take a strictly "hands off" attitude, that we should take the position that all religions have good in them, that each religion is suited to the needs of the people who follow it. To use the figure of the mountain, the Hindu is climbing it from one side, the Mohammedan from another, the Buddhist from another, the Christian from still another. For some the climb may be more difficult than for others. But they will all reach the top at last. So why worry? Others are telling us that we should try to effect a *modus vivendi,* a policy of co-existence, between all religions, that we should recognize the good points in each and minimize or ignore the bad points, that we should attempt a synthesis of all religions, that we should be as ready to learn from them as we should like them to be ready to learn from us. There is more of that spirit abroad in Christendom today than many of us realize.

A notable event has just been celebrated in Paris, the Centennial of the Young Men's Christian Association. A special news report to the *New York Times,* a month ago, stated that this Centennial was being attended by nearly 10,000 delegates and visitors. According to Dr. Paul Limbert, the general secretary, the delegates included "Moslems, Hindus, Buddhists, and Jews." He said, however, that "the essentially Christian basis of the YMCA would be preserved." He said that "the YMCA has remained primarily a *Protestant* Christian organization, but there are Roman Catholic members." The first sentence of this news item is significant. It reads as follows: "Not all of the *membership* of the Young Men's Christian Association is young, male, or Christian." News reporters like to make a "good story," to tell something strange and startling, and their statements must often be taken with a grain of salt. But there are unmistakable trends in many Christian enterprises which cannot but give us ground for anxious thought.

"Comparative religion" is a popular study in our colleges and seminaries today; and there are many who can be truly said to be students of all religions but disciples of none. Let us not forget, that it is this spirit which cuts the nerve of Christian Missions and undermines the very foundations of our Christian faith. Isaiah lived in one of the great crisis periods of Israel's history. He knew some of the religions of the past. He was an authority on comparative religion. And this is the word of the Lord to us from his lips: "I am the Lord. That is my name and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images." He is, and He has ever been the incomparable God. Today as centuries ago there is only one answer to the question, "To whom will ye liken me, and make me equal, and compare me that we may be like." And if this was the unanswerable challenge of the God of Israel through His prophet 700 years before the Christian era, how much more impressive and imperative does it become when it receives its answer in these words of calm self-appraisal from our Saviour's lips when He says to us: "I am the way, the truth and the life, no man cometh unto the Father but by me." And when having triumphed over death, He gives to His disciples the Great Commission, "All power is given unto me in heaven and on earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations." Peter realized its meaning when he said to the leaders of the Jews, "Neither is there salvation in any other. For there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved."

Men may call it prejudice, obscurantism. They may accuse us of bias and even of bigotry. But it was this unique, exclusive, this "bigoted" Gospel, if you wish to call it that, with which the Early Church conquered the vast Roman Empire. The weapons of the Church are not carnal but spiritual; not the bloody scimitar of the prophet of Allah, but the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. We are to speak the truth in love. But it is the truth which we must speak, and boldly. We may be dismayed and discouraged as we think of the vastness of the task before us. But we have the assurance of victory if we will but be faithful. "Fear not little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." The peril which the Christian Church faces today is not so much from without as from within. Cooperation and compromise will inevitably lead to disaster and defeat. It is only those who hold high the banner of the Cross who can hope to taste the fruit of victory. "I, if I be lifted up from the earth will draw all men unto me," is the promise of our Lord and Captain. Whether the Church of today is faithful to her trust or not, we have the sure promise that the day will come when "the kingdoms of this world shall have become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ" and He shall reign for ever and ever. Blessed are all they who have a part in bringing it about!

The Son of God goes forth to war
A kingly crown to gain.
His blood-red banner streams afar.
Who follows in his train?

No Enemies

He has no enemies, you say?
My friend, your boast is poor;
He who hath mingled in the fray
Of duty, that the brave endure,
Must have made foes. If he has none
Small is the work that he has done.
He has called no traitor to a stand;
He has cast no cup from tempted hand;
He has cast no cup from wrong to right;
He has been a coward in the fight.

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Ministers Must Decide

All ordained ministers should decide before April 15 whether they will participate in the Social Security program. The decision to elect participation in the Social Security program must be registered on Form 2031 and filed with the district director of Internal Revenue.

Even ministers who may have filed their income tax statement for the year 1955, may elect coverage and file an "amended" return, according to a spokesman for the Internal Revenue Bureau. In such a case, the amended return should be accompanied by the Schedule C, which is used to determine the amount of Social Security tax, along with payment of the tax. The tax is now 3% of the minister's net earnings. This is to be increased in the future, until it will be 6% in 1975.

If a minister has previously had a Social Security number, because of previous employment covered by Social Security, he must use that number in filing his return. If he has not previously received a number, and if he elects coverage, he should apply for a Social Security card at the nearest Social Security (Old Age and Survivors Insurance) office.

Social Security benefits include: payments to the minister upon retirement at age 65, to his wife if she is 65 or over, to his widow if 65 or over, or to his widow if under 65 and there are children under 18 years. Payments are made only after his coverage has been established by participation for eighteen months or more.

The election of participation in Social Security is irrevocable, but in virtually every case it is to the minister's financial interests that he participate in the program.

Ministers become eligible for participation through licensing or ordination, and by being in the exercise of their ministry. If a minister does not file his election of participation in the first two years of his eligibility he will be permanently barred from the program. But, presuming that he will want to participate, it will be greatly to his advantage to file his election of coverage prior to April 15, 1956.

More Night Clubs

Two Congressmen, Mr. Hale of Maine and Mr. Pelly of Washington, have done the nation the disfavor of introducing bills in Congress which, if passed, would open the way for hundreds, perhaps thousands, of additional cabarets throughout the nation. The two bills, which have been referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means, would repeal the 20% tax on cabarets.

Furthermore, Mr. Pelly has stated that the net result would be an increase rather than a decrease in federal revenue. This would be due largely to a tremendous increase in alcohol consumption, and to the opening of additional night spots where alcohol would be served. The cabaret tax brought more than $39 million during the last fiscal year. Mr. Pelly estimates that the repeal of the tax would result in other revenues which would jointly top the $50 million mark.

The drive for this legislation has come from the amusement industry, particularly the musicians union, and from the American Hotel Association which reports that approximately two-thirds of its dining-with-entertainment rooms have been discontinued or forced to close since the tax was passed in 1946.

Congressman Pelly and Hale are very sympathetic toward a few hundred musicians who have been forced to change their type of employment as a result of the caberet tax. But they have refused to see the tremendous implications that the passage of their bills would have on the highways and in the homes of the whole nation.

This is an issue on which Evangelicals cannot afford to be silent.

New Mailing Privileges

The Post Office Department has stated that all church publications, issued on a regular schedule, will be eligible for benefits of second class postal rates without the formality of maintaining a list. These benefits were made possible through legislation which was introduced by Congressman James C. Wright (D.-Tex.) and passed the last year's session of Congress.

The Post Office made known its decisions to Mr. Glenn Everett, a religious correspondent, who had pressed the department for further clarification.

Decisions of the Department include the following:

(1) that nation-wide publications of such groups as mission societies, church extension societies, evangelism groups, etc., can enter as second class, regardless of circulation or to what "membership" they are sent.

(2) that city churches which publish weekly parish bulletins can enter those as second class and mail them at one-eighth cent each, although any bulletins published bi-weekly, monthly or on any other schedule will be subject to a minimum rate of one-cent each where there is city carrier service; and

(3) that bulletins issued by organizations within the parish, such as ladies aid societies, youth fellowship, choirs, or men's brotherhoods are eligible for second class mailing.

However, the bulletins in question have to be printed, either from type or by offset process and cannot be mimeographed. Second class matter is defined in postal regulations as "printed matter."

At the same time the Post Office denied that it had reached any decision with regard to "free in county" privileges under the new legislation (*Action,* December 15). The "free in county" privileges date back to 1879, and provide that "subscribers" in rural village areas within the county of publication, if not served by a carrier, will receive the second class publication free of postage. In most instances, however, the amount of postage under the "free in county" privileges would be very small. Most churches will be mainly interested in the second class provisions, with only the strictly rural churches looking further into "free in county" provisions.

Postmasters were notified of the second class provisions under the new law in the Postal Bulletin of September 22, 1955.

Narcotics Legislation

Senator Price Daniel (D.-Tex.) has urged the Senate to take strong legislative action against the narcotics traffic, and he asked for legislation providing for the death penalty in certain cases of large-scale smuggling and peddling of heroin.

Senator Daniel also suggested that international machinery should be set in action to control the narcotics traffic.

The Senator acknowledged that the findings of the panel had been shocking to the investigators themselves. The members of the Senate also registered shock at the findings.

The report of the panel showed that the traffic in narcotics is as large as it was at the end of World War II. It was stated that there are 60,000 addicts known to law enforcement authorities; about 13 per cent of these addicts are under the age of 21.

The Senator, in response to a question, stated that much of the financial support or organized crime in the US comes from the traffic in narcotics and from illegal gambling activities.

EVANGELICAL NEWSFRONT

—UNITED ACTION—

Taylor Headlines Meet Of NAE Central Region

WICHITA, Kans.—Plans have been announced for the first annual convention of the NAE Central Region at Asbury Center, Wichita, February 16.

Dr. Clyde W. Taylor of the NAE Office of Affairs in Washington, D.C., will be the main speaker. Rev. George L. Ford, associate executive director will also be present for the convention. Rev. C. S. Meinhardt of Topeka, who is the president of the regional board, will preside over the sessions.

Since this convention is the first to be held in the region, the items of business will include adopting a permanent constitution, electing permanent officers and board members, and laying of plans for the future.

Rev. Mahlon L. Macy, regional director, stated that he expected each of the five states within the region to be represented. The states included are Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Colorado. The Wichita office also temporarily serves churches in the state of Texas.

"Church Edified in Love" Theme of NAE Convention

CHICAGO.—"The Church, Edifying Itself in Love," based on Ephesians 4:15, 16, is the convention theme of the 14th annual convention of the National Association of Evangelicals and the subject of a keynote address by Dr. Henry H. Savage, the NAE President. The convention will be held at the Hotel Hollenden, Cleveland, Ohio, April 10 through 13.

Other speakers will include past-president of the NAE, Dr. Paul S. Rees, pastor of the First Covenant Church of Minneapolis and associated with the Billy Graham campaigns in England and Scotland; Dr. V. Raymond Edman, president of Wheaton College; Dr. Howard Ferrin, president of Providence-Barrington Bible College; Rev. C. Morris Ward, radio speaker for "Revival Time"; Dr. C. Stacey Woods, general secretary of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship; Dr. Clyde W. Taylor, Secretary of Affairs of the NAE; and Dr. William Ward Ayer, evangelist and radio speaker.

The NAE "Convention of Conventions" will schedule meetings of the National Religious Broadcasters; Women's Fellowship; Evangelical Foreign Missions Association; National Sunday School Association; and Commissions on Education, Evangelical Youth, World Relief, Chaplains, Social Action, Evangelical Action, Evangelism and Church Extension.

A departure from former conventions will bring more of the business to the general meetings. All the NAE Commissions, agencies and staff will report to the convention body.

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Delegates will represent some 40 NAE denominations and many additional individual churches. Churches affiliated with the NAE, either by denominational or individual membership will be entitled to one delegate for each 500 members or fraction thereof.

Missoula Evangelicals Announce Future Plans

MISSOULA, Mont.—The Evangelical Ministerial Alliance meeting at the Palace Hotel laid detailed plans for a union evangelistic crusade to be held April 4-15 with Evangelist Russell V. DeLong, of Kansas City, Kans.

The Seattle-Pacific College Choir of Seattle, Washington was extended an invitation to appear in Missoula for their third bi-annual Sacred Concert March 20.

A union Good Friday service will be sponsored by the Association. The three hour service will be held at the Salvation Army citadel and the planning committee consists of Rev. Lt. Dexter of the Salvation Army as chairman assisted by Rev. H. L. Inabnit of the Emmanuel Baptist Church and Rev. W. B. Childress of the Pentecostal Church of God.

Rev. David Figg, pastor of the Church of the Nazarene was elected president of the Association.

New England Churches In Evangelical Action

NEW BEDFORD, Mass.—Seventeen churches of ten denominations formed the Evangelical Fellowship of Southeastern New England at a meeting here.

The group, which has been meeting informally for more than a year, adopted a constitution and set up committees. Rev. R. L. Carlberg, pastor of the Baptist Temple in Fall River, Mass., was elected first president.

The fellowship will promote cooperation among churches and lay groups "loyal to evangelical Christianity."

Ministers of the member churches were appointed to work on committees for prayer fellowship, social fellowship and Christian fellowship for youth. Commissions named are on evangelism, Christian education, civic righteousness and publicity and promotion.

—EDUCATION—

Condemn Bible Colleges At Educational Meeting

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—Prospective students were cautioned here to investigate carefully before enrolling in any of the "proliferation of so-called Bible colleges that have sprung up in the last fifteen years."

The warning was voiced by Harlie L. Smith, president of the Disciples of Christ board of higher education, which met here.

"A large number of these Bible colleges," Mr. Smith said, "may survive and become academically respectable, but now most of them are not. Most of them are just preacher trade schools."

The Disciples of Christ have more than the usual number of Bible institutes, colleges and seminaries. These schools have come into being because of apostasy in the older educational institutions of the denomination. There are more men studying for the ministry in the new schools than in all the older institutions put together.

NACS Reports Increase In Christian Day Schools

CHICAGO.—The Christian school cause, championed by the National Association of Christian Schools, affiliate of the National Association of Evangelicals, is making rapid progress.

The average yearly enrollment increase in Protestant elementary and secondary schools in the USA is 6 per cent. The last half-dozen years have witnessed a transfer of about one-half million pupils from the public to private schools. Public school enrollment is increasing each year, but the enrollment of private schools increased twice as fast percentage wise. Forty-one new Christian schools affiliated with NACS in 1955.

These any many other important facts of vital interest to lovers of Christian education will be found in the new NACS *Educational Directory* which has recently been published. Besides giving statistical information, it gives factual data on 130 Christian schools. This information is of vital interest to those who are contemplating moving to another location for the purpose of sending their children to a Christian school. As long as the supply lasts, this *Education Directory* of 83 pages can be secured for fifty cents.

(Address The National Association of Christian Schools, 10201 S. State Street, Chicago 28, Ill.)

Symposium on Religion, Psychiatry, Psychology

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—Dr. Martin H. Scharlemann, director of the School for Graduate Studies of Concordia Theological Seminary here, announced that final plans have been made for a written symposium on the relationships between theology, psychology, and psychiatry.

The project was originated almost three years ago by the Committee on Developing Scholarly Research of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. It calls for preparation of a practical guide for use by pastors, psychiatrists and psychologists "in which the terminology, interests, and concern of each of the three disciplines will be set forth in the light of others." Areas of mutual interest will be examined, as well as areas of possible conflict; the role of the pastor as spiritual counselor and the pastor's use of psychological and psychiatric services will be discussed.

The School for Graduate Studies of the seminary is overseeing the project. Publication of findings is scheduled for the spring of 1957.

Five committee members will bring together their findings at a six-week session next summer in Minneapolis, after which results of investigation will be put in final form.

DBI Given Degree Granting Authority

DETROIT, Mich.—The Detroit Bible Institute was recently granted permission to confer the Bachelor of Theology degree by the Department of Education of the State of Michigan. Candidates for this degree must enter the Institute with two years of Liberal Arts credit earned in an accredited college or university, and complete a three-year prescribed Bible course. Authority to grant the Th. B. degree was given after several years of effort to meet the educational standards of the State Board of Education. The non-degree diploma courses will be continued as usual in the day and evening schools.

—DENOMINATIONS—

Southern Baptists Set New Record in Giving

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Southern Baptists set a new record in 1955 by giving $18,240,455 in direct contributions to the denomination's various causes, it was reported here by Porter Routh, secretary-treasurer of the Convention's executive committee. The total is $1,345,082, or 8 per cent, greater than the 1954 amount.

Mr. Routh pointed out that these figures do not include amounts given to support activities of the nation's 30,000 Southern Baptist churches and state Baptist bodies. He said that if these amounts were included in the report the total contributions of Southern Baptists "very probably would exceed $300,000,000."

Some 56 per cent of the funds contributed to the Convention's causes, or $10,377,575, went to its Foreign Missions Board, Mr. Routh said. The Home Missions Board received $3,172,714 and the denomination's five seminaries, $2,943,226.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERS PLAN NSSA PROGRAM

Denominational leaders spent three days in Chicago recently in co-operative planning for 1956. The general theme of the National Sunday School Association program is "Building with the Bible." The theme will be adapted to National Family Week, May 6-13, to read "Building with the Bible in the Home," and for National Sunday School Week, September 30-October 7, as "Building with the Bible through the Sunday School." The conference also chose main-line speakers, workshop leaders, and topics for discussion at the Eleventh Annual National Sunday School Convention to be held in Chicago, October 10-12.

Presbyterians Plan Merger in May, 1958

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—(RNS)—May, 1958 has been set as the tentative date for the merger of the Presbyterian Church in the USA and the United Presbyterian Church of North America.

This was announced here by Dr. Ralph W. Lloyd of Maryville, Tenn., and Dr. Robert W. Gibson, co-chairman of a joint drafting committee named to formulate a plan of union between the two Churches. The announcement followed a two-day planning session by key committee members.

The co-chairmen pointed out that 1958 will mark the centenary of the United Presbyterian Church and therefore was a particularly opportune time to create the new denomination to be called the United Presbyterian Church in the USA.

The merger proposal is based on a three-way plan approved by the USA and United Churches in 1954 but defeated that year by a vote of the presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in the US (Southern).

Assemblies of God Observe Pentecost

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — Rev. Bert Webb, executive director of evangelism for the Assemblies of God, announced that a large portion of the 7,000 Assemblies of God churches across the country will engage in Simultaneous Revivals in May, culminating on Pentecost Sunday, May 20.

The observance will mark the Golden Jubilee anniversary of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at a mission in Azusa Street, Los Angeles, which gave impetus to the twentieth century Pentecost Movement.

Nazarenes to Expand Foreign Mission Work

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—Leaders of the Church of the Nazarene, which has international headquarters here, announced an expansion of its world missionary operations to include Formosa and the extension of present work in Africa and Japan.

Twenty-three new missionaries were commissioned by the general board, chief administrative body of the Church.

With the new appointees, the Church has a total of 319 missionaries in thirty-one countries, according to Dr. Remiss Rehfeldt, executive secretary of the department of foreign missions. The mission program also has 1,356 native workers.

Church Votes to Permit Use of Liquor in Vestry

HANCOCK, N. H. —(RNS)— Members of the Congregational church here, at their annual meeting, defeated a motion which would have banned the use of alcoholic beverages by groups and individuals using the church vestry for private events.

Only about one-quarter of the members present voted to forbid the use of alcohol in the vestry, and about two-fifths cast their votes to limit its use. The pastor, Rev. Thomas H. Billings, abstained from voting.

The unusual action came after Harold S. Fuller, moderator, in reply to a question from the floor said he was aware that beverages of alcoholic content had been served at several functions in the vestry.

Methodist Women Ask For Full Clergy Rights

BUCK HILL FALLS, Pa.—(RNS)—Full clergy rights for women were requested by the Woman's Division of Christian Service of the Methodist Board of Missions in a memorial to the Church's 1956 General Conference.

CBA Leaders Billed For Denver Meetings

DENVER, Colo.—The Colorado Association of Conservative Baptists is sponsoring a Baptist Conference here February 20-22. Speakers will be Dr. R. V. Clearwaters, Dr. Albert G. Johnson, Dr. Howard Sugden, and Dr. Arno Weniger, president of the Conservative Baptist Association of America. Dr. Alan Williams and the Lakewood Baptist Church will be hosts to the gathering.

YOUTH

Christian Reformed Youth Groups Merge

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.—A vote conducted among the young people of Christian Reformed churches in the United States and Canada gave a resounding 94% approval to merge the present two national Federations, the Young Calvinist Federation (YCF) and the American Federation of Reformed Young Women Societies (AFRYWS). The single new organization is called the Young Calvinist Federation of North America.

The Federations were encouraged by the Synod of the denomination through its Synodical Youth Committee to carry out the plan. Each Federation appointed three members to work out the details and a Constitution. Serving this committee were Dr. Clarence De Graaf, professor of English at Hope College, and president of the YCF; Rev. William P. Brink, pastor of the Bethany Christian Reformed Church, Holland, and Richard Postma, YCF Director. For the AFRYWS Mrs. Tillie Gelderloos Jaarsma, president of the AFRYWS; Anne Weessies and Hester Monsma, secretary of the AFRYWS. A new Constitution was submitted to the annual convention of the Federations in 1954 for study. In August of 1955, both Federations approved the Constitution and By-Laws for submission to all member societies of both Federations for a vote, resulting in the overwhelming approval of the memberships.

The Young Men Society movement was organized in 1919, and has published *The Young Calvinist* since that time. The Young Women's Federation came into existence in 1932 and has cooperated in the publication of the journal.

To Use Bebop Parties In Youth Evangelism

CHICAGO — (RNS) — Popcorn and bebop parties in the houses of young Methodists will be emphasized in "Operation Fellowship," an evangelism program planned for the 1956-60 quadrennium.

It will be "an imaginative, daring program to reach the drug store, poolhall and country club crowds," Rev. Harold W. Ewing of Nashville said here.

REFORM

Legion Chaplains Will Conduct Decency Drive

INDIANAPOLIS —(RNS)— American Legion chaplains from all forty-eight states voted here to wage an "all-out war" on indecent comic-pocket-books and objectionable movies.

Their resolution urged posts to cooperate with other civic organizations in the supervision of magazines and films. It said such supervision is necessary to "safeguard the moral life of American youth and to foster healthy family life in the communities."

Steps were taken by the chaplains to intensify the Legion's "Back to God" movement.

Baptists Ask End of Liquor on Airliners

CHICAGO—(RNS)—An early end of the "indefensible practice" of serving liquor on passenger airliners was urged in a resolution adopted here by the General Council of the American Baptist Convention.

The resolution said serving intoxicating beverages on planes increased the risks of air travel, promoted juvenile delinquency, was unfair to abstaining travelers and forced stewardesses to become barmaids.

It commended those airlines which, because of their "sense of responsibility," spurn the practice. And it appealed to other lines to follow "their sound example and return to the policy of excluding liquor on grounds of safety."

The resolution was addressed to the Civil Aeronautics Board, the "Airlines of America" and the Air Transport Association.

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—The following Airlines serve alcoholic beverages. Possibly a letter of protest would be in order: American Airlines, Mr. C. R. Smith, President, 100 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y.; Eastern Airlines, Captain Eddy Rickenbacker, President, 10 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y.; National Airlines, Mr. G. T. Baker, President, 3240 N. W. 27th Avenue, Miami, Fla.; Northwest Airlines, Mr. Donald Nyrop, President, 1885 University Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.; Trans-World Airlines, Mr. Ralph Damon, President, 10 Richards Road, Kansas City, Mo.; United Airlines, Mr. William A. Patterson, President, Executive Offices, United Airlines Building, Chicago 38, Ill.; Western Airlines, Mr. Arthur F. Kelly, President, Los Angeles Airport, 6060 Avion Drive, Los Angeles, Calif.]

PARISH

Church Marks $11,000 Rise in Missions Gifts

MIAMI BEACH, Fla.—Challenging smaller churches to do more in the way of missionary giving, the Independent Presbyterian Church of Miami Beach has set a notable example. With 312 members, this church gave $68,035.21 to Christian missions during 1955, thus marking an $11,000 increase over the previous year's gifts. This amount provides the partial support of its seventy-two missionaries. "Personal interest in each missionary," together with "keeping the privilege and responsibility of missions constantly before our people" were given by the pastor, Dr. Willis E. Garrett, as the secret of this remarkable testimony.

Chattanooga Church Sets New Stewardship Records

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.—A goal of $80,000 for foreign missions was reached at the Fourth World Missions Conference held in First Presbyterian Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee, recently.

At the First World Mission Conference in 1952 First Church called on Dr. Oswald Smith, pastor of the Peoples' Church, Toronto, Canada, to direct the gathering.

The second year Dr. Clyde Taylor, executive secretary of the foreign missions department of the National Association of Evangelicals in Washington, D. C., was the main speaker, and in 1954 and 1955 Dr. Harold John Ockenga, pastor of the Park Street Church in Boston, Massachusetts, directed the conference.

This year's gifts for foreign missions will represent only a small part of

CHRISTIAN REFORMED LEADERS SEAL MERGER

Mrs. Tillie Gelderloos Jaarsma (left), president of the American Federation of Reformed Young Women Societies, and Dr. Clarence De Graaf, president of the Young Calvinist Federation, join hands, emblematic of the decision to merge the two youth organizations. A 94% vote of approval brought smiles to the other members of the Constitution Committee, Miss Anne H. Weessies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, and Richard Postma, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

First Church's obligations for others.

The church has accepted presbytery's askings of $100,000 for benevolences for 1956. It raised $21,000 for purchase of a camp site on Lake Chickamauga for the Young People. The church recently received a gift of $100,000 for air conditioning its edifice. This Church has led in the erection of a $30,000 boys' residence at Bachman Home for Orphans, securing $20,000. A gift of $50,000 for presbytery's home missions towards their goal of $1,000,000 over the next decade for this cause has been received. The church pledged $25,444 on the negro work, added $10,000 more. All has been paid in full, the largest gift from any one church in the Assembly. It has pledged $61,326 on King College's Million Dollar Campaign and has already paid $32,217. A gift of $1,116 was presented the Gideons on their special day, according to the Gideons the largest gift in the nation from any one church. The church raised the pastor's salary last year and has given him a new Oldsmobile with power steering and air conditioning.

PRESS

Christian Reformed Journal Discontinued

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.—The Board of *The Calvin Forum,* scholarly journal of the Christian Reformed Church, has announced that it plans to cease publishing within the next few months.

The journal has suffered the loss of two of its talented editors within a relatively short time—Dr. C. Bouma by reason of illness and Dr. C. DeBoer by death. During its twenty years of service *Calvin Forum* has rendered an important service to the denomination and the cause of Calvinism.

RADIO - TV

"Grace Notes" Renews Contract with KFAB

OMAHA, Neb.—Grace Bible Institute has renewed its third annual contract with radio station KFAB, Omaha for its fifteen-minute student-sponsored weekly broadcast, "Grace Notes." The program is under the direction of James P. Davies and covers the western part of the nation. There are a few outlets in the east.

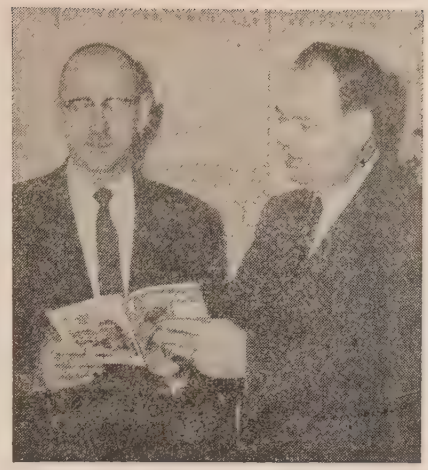
The GBI Choraliers, under the direction of H. D. Wiebe, will make a six-day tour of Kansas in March. Dr. John R. Dick, dean of the school, and Don Plett, president of the student body, will accompany the group.

Features Lutheran Hour in February Coronet Article

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—A four-page feature story on The Lutheran Hour and its world-wide operations is featured in the February issue of *Coronet,* popular digest size magazine now on the nation's newsstands.

Entitled "The Word in 56 Languages" the major article gives several illustrations from Lutheran Hour files of people whose lives have been changed through the Gospel messages.

Written by Ralph Bass, prominent New York writer who uses the pen name of Mark Graham, the story gives some indication of the tremendous popularity which the broadcast enjoys throughout the world. It also points up the fact that the counselling service offered on the broadcast gets wide use.



DR. OSWALD HOFFMAN (right), speaker on The Lutheran Hour, examines a feature story about the broadcast in the current issue of Coronet magazine with Harry G. Barr, Fort Smith, Ark., chairman of The Lutheran Hour operating committee.

The Lutheran Hour is heard on more than 1,250 radio stations in a total of 64 countries and territories.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Oklahoma City Rejects Released-Time Program

OKLAHOMA CITY—A proposal that public school pupils be released one hour a week for religious instruction in nearby churches was rejected by the Oklahoma City school board.

Board members agreed that children need more weekday religious training. But they said it is not the responsibility of public schools to provide time for such a program.

Before the board issued its ruling, the executive committee of the Oklahoma City PTA Council—representing all parent-teacher units in the city district—declared its opposition to released time classes.

Charges Books Often Violators of Decency

NEW YORK—(RNS)—Books are rapidly becoming "the worst violators of decency," Dr. Clarence W. Hall, executive editor of the *Christian Herald,* warned here.

He testified before the Joint Legislative Committee on Obscene Literature which has been conducting hearings on pornographic material.

Dr. Hall urged that the state committee extend its investigation of magazines and motion pictures to include books.

"An author can put into a novel, words and scenes that would ban magazines from the mails, close down movie houses, rule radio and TV off the air," he said.

"While posing as a man of gentility in a business above reproach, a book publisher can, in the name of realism and literary liberty, print and promote books that nobody save a collector of

Why Does God Allow Children to Suffer?

That is a question which no theologian can answer. Even the Bible remains silent on the subject.

There is one thing, however, that I believe God will not tolerate, and that is for us, His children, to allow little ones to suffer when it is within our power to help them.

The land of Greece probably has more orphans in proportion to its population than any other country in the world. Almost 400,000 orphans out of a population of seven million! And in Greece the American Mission to Greeks has built and maintains the only Protestant orphanage for Greek children.

"I have a little boy of ten who never felt a mother's love," writes Michael Belos, a blind Protestant believer in Greece. "Being extremely poor I had to place him in a state institution where he stayed for two years. Then they discharged him because I would not have him baptized in the Greek Orthodox Church. When I learned of your Protestant Orphanage, I immediately took him there and was allowed to stay with him for a few days. Words fail me to express how I feel about it. Such an institution never existed in Greece before. If ever a new Book of the Acts of the Apostles were written, much could be said about this Orphanage and the work of the American Mission to Greeks. Of course, I know that if my son is to stay in this wonderful Orphanage, it will be necessary for you to find a foster parent for him in America. That is why I am writing this letter. Just think of my plight—a blind, forsaken father, unable to offer his son anything. And yet, in spite of my blindness, I am able to distribute a great many Scriptures and other Gospel literature."

Would you not like to be a foster parent to this ten-year-old boy? His support is only $15 a month. You will receive his picture and have the privilege of corresponding with him. There are other children also waiting to be cared for in the Orphanage and to attend the Christian Day School operated by the same Mission. It is one of the most worthwhile missionary enterprises you could undertake. Or you may be interested in providing the Scriptures this blind brother is anxious to distribute. Ten dollars will provide him with fifty Modern Greek New Testaments. The people of Greece are eager to read the Word. They gave it to us and now it is our privilege to give it to them. Please send your contributions to American Mission to Greeks, Inc., Rev. Spiros Zodhiates, General Secretary, P. O. Box 423, Dept. U, New York 36, N. Y. (In Canada write to 90 Duplex Ave., Toronto 12, Ontario.)

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pornography would want to have around the house."

The committee asked Dr. Hall and William White, counsel for the American News Company and its subsidiary, the Union News Company, to draft proposed legislation to eliminate publications which are suggestive and offensive but not criminally obscene according to existing laws.

Court Exempts Bible Conference Property

STROUDSBURG, Pa.—Monroe County Court here ruled that the 153-acre Pinebrook Bible Conference property in nearby Stroud Township is exempt from county and township taxes.

The property is owned by the Pinebrook Foundation, Inc., headed by Rev. Percy B. Crawford, radio and television evangelist who operates three summer camps for young people at the location.

County and township authorities had denied Mr. Crawford's plea for tax exemption on the grounds that Pinebrook could not be classified as a public charity. The officials contended that campers were not recipients of charity because they paid a weekly fee. They also maintained that teaching the Bible does not constitute a public charity.

Judge Fred W. Davis rejected these arguments. He held that the foundation is a non-profit corporation and a public charity within the meaning of the Pennsylvania constitution.

Virginia Voters Back School Tuition Grant

RICHMOND, Va.—By more than a 2-1 margin, Virginia voters endorsed the calling of a convention to amend the state constitution so as to legalize public grants for educating children in non-sectarian private schools. The plan is designed to circumvent racial desegregation in the public schools.

The grants would be made available to parents in communities that close their schools to avoid integration and to dissenting parents in localities that decide to desegregate their schools.

One of the most intense debates in Virginia's history preceded the referendum, with clergymen and church groups taking the lead in opposing the constitution amendment proposal.

Alaska Constitution Not to Exclude God

COLLEGE, Alaska—(RNS)—A proposal to exclude the mention of God from the preamble of the proposed Constitution for a State of Alaska was overwhelmingly defeated by the constitutional convention here.

James P. Doogan, delegate from Fairbanks, summed up the arguments against the deletion.

"Excluding this reference to God would be inconsistent with other action of the convention," he said. "Every delegate when qualifying for the work here signed an oath that mentioned God. Every day when our sessions are convened we call upon clergymen to pronounce an invocation. It would not only be inconsistent to exclude God here, but it would be unfair."

Barrie White of Anchorage, who proposed the deletion, said the mention of God in the preamble was unnecessary because the Bill of Rights guarantees religious freedom. He stressed that he was not an atheist and belonged to a church.

As adopted the proposed preamble reads:

"We, the people of Alaska, conscious of our heritage of political, civil and religious liberty, grateful to God and to those who founded the nation and pioneered this great land, reaffirm our belief in government by consent of the governed within the Union of States and do ordain and establish this constitution for the state of Alaska."

Ohio Test Case Looms On Sunday Sales Laws

YOUNGSTOWN, O.—(RNS)—Operators of two "bargain centers" which open Sundays awaited a hearing Jan. 26 on their second arrest on charges of violating Ohio laws which prohibit Sunday sales.

The two men were fined $25 each on the first offense and are liable for five-to-thirty days in jail and $50 to $100 fines on the second.

Attorneys for Jack Steinberg, owner of Giant Bargain Center and Emil Keich, operator of Bargain Port, said they will seek to delay the second case until rights of appeal are exhausted in the first. The men have pleaded innocent on the second charges, filed on the basis of affidavits sworn by rival hardware dealers.

The bargain centers sell hardware and sundry items, advertising their goods at reductions. The Mahoning

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Valley Hardware Association lodged the complaint.

An appeal has been filed with Ohio's Seventh District Court of Appeals. Atty. John B. Cunningham said it would be possible for the case to be carried to the Ohio Supreme Court, because the "blue laws" are a part of the state constitution, although long dormant.

N. J. Legislature Would Strengthen Sunday Law

TRENTON, N. J.—(RNS)—Several bills introduced in the legislature here to strengthen a state law banning unnecessary Sunday sales were given impetus by a New Jersey State Supreme Court decision that the law is ineffective because it provides no penalty for violation.

One of them, filed by Sen. Kenneth C. Hand (R. Union), would specify penalties for violation. It proposes to designate violators as disorderly persons and fine them $10 for the first offense, $20 for the second, $100 for the third and 30 days in jail for subsequent offenses.

Church Construction Reached $736,000,000

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(RNS)—Church construction set a record of $736,000,000 in 1955, the Departments of Commerce and Labor estimated here.

The previous high was $593,000,000 in 1954.

December building at $63,000,000 was the highest on record for that month. It compared with $57,000,000 in December, 1954.

EVANGELISM

Some 30,000 Attend Butt Boston Crusade Meetings

BOSTON—More than 30,000 persons attended meetings during a twelve-day Crusade for Christ conducted by lay evangelist Howard Butt. He is the twenty-eight-year-old millionaire Texas grocery chain head who devotes half of each year to preaching.

A spokesman for the evangelistic team said 103 Boston area churches had gained a total of 350 new members as a result of the campaign.

Wichita Is Host City Child Evangelism Meet

SANTA MONICA, Calif—The tenth annual Child Evangelism Fellowship conference will be held at The Westside Christian Church, Wichita, Kansas, May 7-11. Fellowship directors, teachers, workers and friends gather each year to exchange ideas and to hear missionaries and Bible-centered messages. There will be handwork displays and workshops of different phases of children's work. This year's outstanding Bible teacher will be Dr. Richard Seume. The conference is under the leadership of International Director Franklin F. Ellis.

Wichita has been chosen this year as meeting place because it is in the central section of the United States and has a large number of Good News Clubs.

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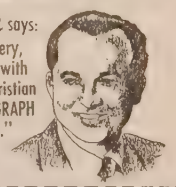

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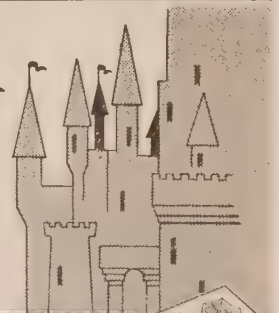

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MISSIONS

Mme. Chiang Kai-Shek Sponsors a New Clinic

TAIPEH, Formosa.—Madame Chiang Kai-Shek and her Women's Prayer Group are establishing a medical clinic to meet the needs of the poor people of Formosa. Stating that the purpose of the clinic is two-fold, physical and spiritual, Madame Chiang remarked that "to meet only the physical needs without meeting the spiritual needs would not accomplish the purpose of the medical clinic."

The Women's Prayer Group has pledged thousands of dollars for the maintenance of the clinic. World Vision has agreed to supply all the medicine needed and Orient Crusades will provide an evangelist. Madame Chiang has requested prayer for the provision of a "completely Christian medical team of" a foreign Christian doctor and two nurses.

Famed Missions Meet Scheduled for March

PITTSBURGH, Pa. — The North Side Pittsburgh Christian and Missionary Alliance Church will sponsor its sixty-second annual Bible and Missionary Convention March 11-18. The gathering which has become one of the nation's leading Bible and Missionary Conferences, will be held in Carnegie Hall, North Side.

Dr. A. W. Tozer, editor of the *Alliance Weekly* and pastor of the South Side Christian and Missionary Alliance Church, Chicago, Ill. will be the evangelist and J. Stratton Shufelt of Wheaton, Ill., will be the music director. Also on the program will be Dr. Delbert W. Rose, of Asbury Theological Seminary, Dr. Julian A. Bandy, of Toccoa Falls Bible School, and a host of outstanding Bible teachers and missionary speakers. Morning, afternoon, and evening services will be held. Dr. K. C. Fraser, pastor of the North Side Church, will be the Convention chairman.

The North Side Alliance, founded sixty-two years ago by Rev. E. D. Whiteside, the "Praying Man of Pittsburgh," has had a unique ministry. Over one million dollars have been given to foreign missions during this period.

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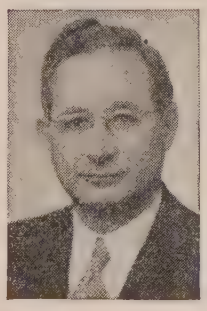

Rev. Jacob Peltz

One pastor from Germany writes: "I plead on behalf of 62 semi-starved Jewish families. Help us to feed them. I beg you to help us!"

A veteran Hebrew Christian missionary pleads on behalf of Jewish converts: "Please remember my spiritual children in Jugoslavia and in Israel. Send them food. They are in great need of help."

One of our workers in the Holy Land writes: "Many of our faithful Hebrew Christians are in great need and our relief funds are exhausted. Elderly Hebrew Christians are unable to earn their living. They plead with us to help them. Please appeal to American Christians to help us!"

We do indeed plead for the prayerful support of Hebrew Christians who frequently become outcasts because of their confession of Christ as Messiah and Saviour. For His sake many lose father, mother, brother and sister, and even their livelihood.

Pray for our work and workers in Europe and in Israel. Please send your gift to help us support little children and the elderly kinsmen of our Lord. The need is very great. Send your gift to:

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WORLD-WIDE

English and Scotch Churches May Unite

LONDON—(RNS)—Representatives of the Church af England and the Church of Scotland (Presbyterian) resumed "conversations" here looking towards "intercommunion leading on to full unity."

Official delegates of the Episcopal Church in Scotland and the Presbyterian Church in England also were present as full members of the conference.

The discussions, which lasted three days, were held at Lambeth Palace, residence of Dr. Geoffrey Francis Fisher, Archbishop of Canterbury. They were devoted mainly to reviewing a draft report, requested by the conferees last October, of practical ways and means to achieve their purpose.

This purpose was defined by the October conference as the mutual attainment by the interested Churches of "a fuller amplitude and catholicity of faith and order than was enjoyed by either, or by any of them, separately."

To achieve this purpose, it was pointed out, would require "some measure of mutual assimilation and of modification of their respective traditions, but without disloyalty to principles held to be essential."

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State of Israel Has 40,000 Christians

JERUSALEM—(RNS)—More than 40,000 of Israel's 1,774,000 inhabitants are Christians, according to a statistical report through Dec. 31, 1955, published by the Government Information Service.

About 23,000 of the Christians are Latin and Eastern Rite Catholics.

Protestants number 2,000, of which 1,040 are listed as Anglicans; Greek Orthodox, 13,400; Armenian Orthodox, 1,030; Egyptian Copts, 700; and Ethiopian Copts, 40.

About 700 of the 1,000 Christian clergymen in Israel are Catholic. There are 200 Christian churches in the country.

Moslems form the largest non-Jewish religious group, with 131,500.

Religious sects recorded are Druzes, with some 17,000; Karaites, 1,200; Samaritans, about 50; and a "few" Baha'i followers.

To Probe Persecution Of Greek Evangelicals

ATHENS—(RNS)—Prime Minister Costas Karamánlis ordered an investigation of alleged police persecution of the Greek Evangelical community at Neos Mylotopos, Macedonia.

He acted after receiving a protest from Rev. Michael Kyriakakis of Athens, moderator of the Greek Evangelical Church, who charged that five women were injured so severely by police that they had to be hospitalized at Thessalonika. The moderator said the police prevented the Evangelicals from holding a service.

The Prime Minister directed A. Mavroidis, gendarmerie commander in Central Macedonia, to conduct an inquiry into the incident. Meanwhile, Minister of Cults Achille Gerocostopoulos instructed local authorities at Neos Mylotopos to see that Evangelicals were permitted to hold services and meetings without disturbance.

Mr. Kyriakakis also reported after a trip to the scene that an elderly Evangelical layman suffered a fatal heart attack during the disturbances. He said that as the police had barred the doors of the Evangelical worship center, his funeral had to be held outdoors.

Evangelicals are said to number about one-third the total population of Neos Mylotopos.

Egyptian Constitution Gives Religious Freedom

CAIRO—(RNS)—Egypt's new constitution, while proclaiming Islam the State religion, guarantees freedom of worship and religious practices.

It also assures to all citizens equality before the law in their rights and public duties, regardless of race, language or faith. Other "inalienable rights" include "freedom of opinion, freedom of assembly and freedom of scientific research."

The new constitution also makes it possible for a non-Moslem to become President of the republic. The charter stipulates that the President must be an Egyptian of Egyptian parents, but does not specify any religious requirements.

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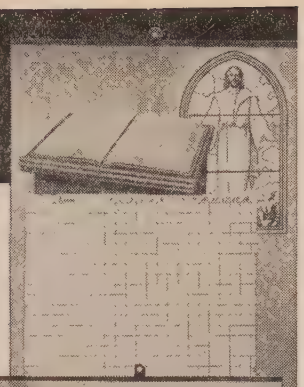

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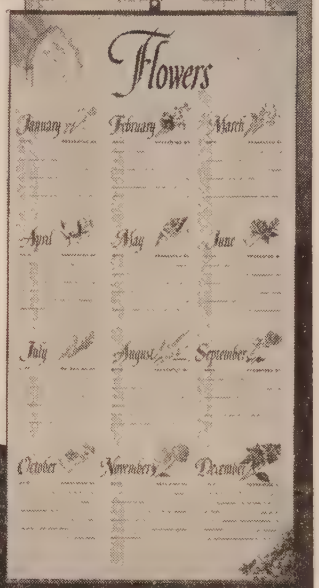

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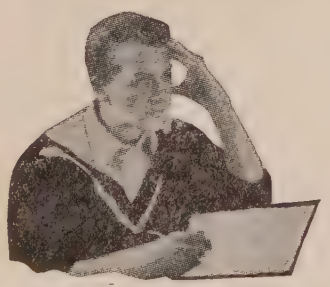

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Catholic Action Youth Storm Church Service

ROME—(RNS)—Rev. Rodolfo Bertini, Churches of Christ pastor at nearby Aprilia, and several members of his congregation were injured when townspeople there stormed into the church and broke up a service he was conducting.

Mr. Bertini and Fausto Salvoni, described as a former priest who had been scheduled to speak at the meeting, were rescued from the crowd by local police and given safe escort to Rome.

The clergyman charged that the disturbance was led by young men and boys belonging to the local Catholic Action group. He said they broke down the doors and ran through the church creating an uproar; then the lights went out and a general fistfight ensued.

Gerald Paden of Brownfield, Tex., leader in Italy of the American missionary group, sent protests over the incident to Italy's Attorney General and to police authorities of Aprilia. He said church officials would endeavor to hold previously-scheduled meetings and services in Aprilia and expressed the hope there would be no further disturbances.

Protestant Situation in East Germany Worsens

BERLIN, Germany—(NLC)—Recent Communist government measures aimed at reducing Christian influence in public life have again worsened the situation of Protestants in the East Zone of Germany, according to *Evangelisher Pressedienst,* official news bulletin of the Evangelical Church of Germany.

Protestant student groups in East German universities are no longer permitted to use class rooms or university halls for their meetings and are forbidden to post bulletins, posters or even small notices on university bulletin boards, said the report.

Simultaneously, the government has increased pressure on church publications, by various means including frequent confiscation of Sunday church papers, the *Pressedienst* said.

East German youth are being subject to an intensified, government-supported campaign for participation in the Communist-sponsored secular "youth dedication ceremonies" rejected by all Christian churches, the report claimed.

It added that "Government authorities try now and again to use the Protestant churches within its sphere of influence for the Communists' political ends."

Ukrainian Farmers Cool To Atheistic Propaganda

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Failure of Red propagandists to sell "scientific atheism" to Ukrainian farmers was revealed recently by a Communist newspaper, according to the USA Information Agency.

In an overseas broadcast, the Agency's Voice of America reported that the Ukrainian newspaper, *Radyanska Ukraina,* disclosed farmers' indifference to anti-religious lectures when it published an editorial attacking Communist shortcomings in the Ukraine.

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"In some places," the paper said, "there are instances of strange dissatisfaction with agitation work directed against capitalism."

As an example, the paper cited an article which appeared in the newspaper, *Sotsyalistychna Kharkivshchyna,* reporting that farmers on the Krupskaya collective farm are indifferent to communist lectures because they contain "too much talk on scientific atheism."

Radyanska Ukraina said the atheist propaganda must be considered as part of the Communist struggle against capitalism and that anti-religious teachings must be organically linked with economic propaganda.

PERSONALIA

Hugh T. Hall, pastor of the Austin (Minn.) Baptist Church, has been elected secretary of the Minnesota Baptist Convention succeeding Dr. John Siemens.

Achille Deodato, moderator of the Waldensian Church of Italy, is in the USA for a series of meetings in behalf of the oldest Protestant movement in Europe. He was guest of honor and chief speaker at the fiftieth anniversary dinner of the American Waldensian Society in New York, January 18.

Clyde W. Taylor, executive secretary of the Evangelical Foreign Missions Association, has recently returned from an important tour of Africa. During his sojourn abroad he visited Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, the Belgian Congo, Nigeria, the Ivory Coast, French Sudan and French Guiana. A report of his activities will appear in an early issue of *Action.*

Roy L. Aldrich, president of the Detroit Bible Institute, was recently presented with a purse for a trip to the Holy Land. The gift was made by the student body and the administrative staff.

R. Laird Harris, chairman of the New Testament department of Faith Theological Seminary, was awarded the first prize of $1,500 in the 1955 Christian Textbook Contest of the Zondervan Publishing House. His manuscript, "The Inspiration and Canonicity of the Bible," will be issued this spring.

Helen Hull has been appointed as editor of Light and Life Story Papers, by the Publishing House Board of the Free Methodist Church. She succeeds Dr. LeRoy M. Lowell who has held the post for thirteen years. Miss Hull has been in charge of office production of the papers for eighteen years.

Elizabeth M. Evans, office secretary of the NAE Commission on International Relations, and first vice president of the NAE Women's Fellowship, is in Europe on her way to serve evangelical missions in the Orient in the field of leadership training. Miss Evans had hoped to go to India, in response to the call of the Evangelical Fellowship of India, to serve as supervisor of the national headquarters office but to date application for visa has not been granted.

Carey S. Thomas, retired president of the Conservative Baptist Theological Seminary in Denver, Colo., died recently after a long illness. Dr. Thomas was one of the founders of the National Association of Evangelicals and served the Association in a number of important capacities.

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Gospel Above Gospels

(Continued from page 7)

sinful man was incapable of producing that sacrifice. But God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son to take upon Himself the form of man and go to the cross as that sacrifice. When His hands and feet and His precious side were pierced and His blood flowed on Calvary a way of escape from sin was provided by God's grace. Without the shedding of His blood there would be no remission of sins today. Now it is possible for all those who accept the Gospel to be saved. Any "gospel" which is silent on the death of Christ and His vicarious atonement is not the true Gospel and the preachers of such a gospel are under the anathema of Galatians first chapter.

But Paul goes on to deal with Christ's burial and resurrection. These two facts of Christ's life are inextricably a part of the true gospel. Many great men have been buried. But only One arose from the dead to bring immortality to light through the gospel. If there was ever a fact of history proven beyond the peradventure of a doubt it is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the fact which demonstrated that Jesus Christ was more than a mere man—that He possessed the power of God over life and death and is able to save unto the uttermost all those who call on His name. That resurrection is also the only hope that humanity has of life after death. Jesus Christ proved that immortality is real and that some day all those who are in Him will know each other in a land where sorrow and pain and death never come and where we can live forever in the blessed presence and fellowship of God Himself. Any gospel that denies the historic fact of the bodily resurrection of our Saviour is not the valid Gospel. Its promises are vain because it denies the proof of proofs that it can "deliver."

But the facts of the Gospel have some important implications to the sinner.

If man is to know the full joy of salvation he must follow in the steps of the Master. He must experience the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ as set forth in the gospel. He must die to the old life. He must give up his evil ways, his evil thoughts, his evil associations, and leave them behind forever. Nothing less than an absolute unwithholding surrender of self is acceptable to God if He is to vouchsafe pardon and a new life of joy and satisfaction in Him. Man must die.

When a man dies he is buried. And so with the seeker after God. The old life of sin must be buried. Only then can he rise to walk in newness of life. And he does rise when he is born again by the water and the Spirit into a new relationship with God and his fellow men. Any gospel which fails to demand full surrender of the life to Christ, repentance from sin, and new birth into the kingdom is a false gospel. It costs something to be a Christian, just as it cost our Saviour something to provide the way of salvation for us.

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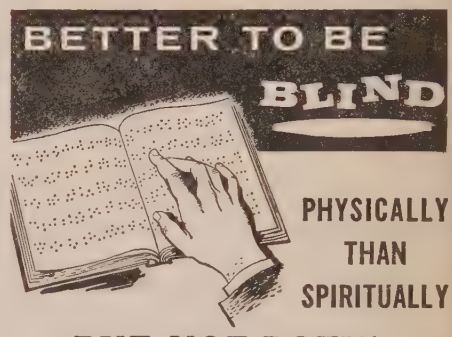

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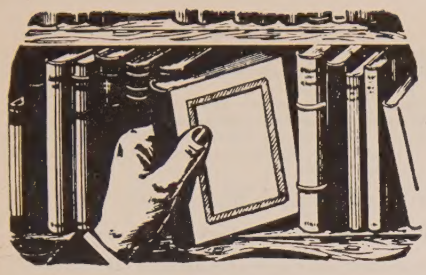

BOOK SHELF

ARNOLD D. EHLERT

"The Effective City Church." Rev. ed. Murray H. Leiffer. 232 pp. Abingdon. $3.50.

Taking the standard definition of urban (2,500 inhabitants and more), the author develops in four parts and twenty-three chapters the theory and practice of city church life. There are seventeen charts and tables covering population growth, membership analysis, giving patterns, and age distribution of membership. One of the most interesting of these is the "life line of an urban church," a chart which shows the growth of church membership, Sunday School membership, and pastoral tenures. Every church should have its statistician and this book will help both pastor and board to understand their church and to detect problem areas in its development. These studies are based on a quarter century of study and survey.

"St. Luke's Life of Jesus Retold in Modern Language." G. Aiken Taylor. 161 pp. Macmillan. $2.75.

Paraphrase is the second step removed from the original, translation being the first. Translation is not usually thought of as a form of commentary, although Dr. Pettingill used to remind us that it is one of the most effective forms of commentary. It forces a man to make decisions on a narrow basis. Paraphrase causes him to make them on a slightly broader basis. This device used to be much more popular than it has been during the last couple of generations, but seems to be growing steadily in popularity. Taylor develops a paraphrase which he believes is "a modern version of what I believe he (Luke) wanted to convey through his story of Jesus Christ. It is written as I believe he would have written it, had he today's false premises in mind as well as those of the first century" (p. 6). The first part of the Acts is included in this volume. The book is hard to use because of the lack of any reference key.

"Studies in the Epistle to the Hebrews." E. Schuyler English. 536 pp. Southern Bible House, Travelers Rest, S.C. $5.95.

This is an extensive exposition of one of the New Testament's most important writings. The introduction covers the main points of authorship, date, etc. Both sides of the argument are presented, but the author feels that the Pauline authorship is most likely.

Every verse is commented upon, and in some cases several pages are devoted to a verse. There are over a hundred pages on the eleventh chapter. The original Greek is dealt with where necessary, but in transliteration. Most of the illustrative matter is from the Scripture itself. The difficult passage in the sixth chapter is handled in the light of the larger context and the persons described are believed by the author to have been mere professors.

There is a bibliography and an index to the volume which was compiled by Mrs. H. A. Ironside. The index runs to more than fifty columns, and is a useful guide to the extensive contents of the Epistle.

"Billy Graham: A Mission Accomplished." George Burnham. 158 pp. Revell. $2.00.

George Burnham is a staff writer for the Chattanooga *News-Free Press*. He accompanied Billy Graham during his entire tour of Scotland, England, and the Continent in 1955. This is the story as seen by the practiced eye of a reporter. Impressions made, favorable and unfavorable, reactions of humble folk and royalty, and the astonishing response by all to the gospel invitations are all chronicled in this very readable account.

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